



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

April 2, 2010

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

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CREATING A FOURTH CHILD WELFARE OUTCOME GOAL: SELF-SUFFICIENCY

This is in response to the March 2, 2010 motion by Supervisor Antonovich which directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in conjunction with the Community Development Commission (CDC), the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Community and Senior Services (DCSS), Mental Health (DMH), Probation, Public Social Services (DPSS), and other affected departments, to report back in 30 days and quarterly thereafter on establishing the fourth child welfare outcome goal of self-sufficiency; and the feasibility of:

- 1) Realigning existing departmental revenues and expenditures to support new strategies to improve self-sufficiency for youth, to include, but not be limited to, housing, education, employment, and well-being;
- 2) Centralizing concurrent youth development planning services;
- 3) Integrating "youth-centered" self-sufficiency services across various County departments in order to create seamless service delivery; and establishing youth self-sufficiency Management Appraisal & Performance Plan (MAPP) goals for the responsible departmental managers within those various County Departments; and,
- 4) Creating an evaluation mechanism to establish baseline data and, thereafter, annually measure improvements in the child welfare outcome goal of self-sufficiency.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Over the course of the past month several actions have occurred. This memo will relay the process for going forward.

Immediate Redirection of DCFS Funds

As a result of the Independent Living Program (ILP) reductions and elimination of the State-funded Emancipated Youth Stipends, DCFS has identified \$.5 million in funds to meet the immediate needs of current and former foster youth with the purchase of books, supplies, transportation, food, and college tuition assistance. This amount is in addition to the \$.5 million in one-time waiver savings that was re-directed in December 2009. Further, DCFS is exploring the use of redirecting \$1 million ILP contracted dollars to meet the on-going needs of Transition Age Youth for Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11.

Garnering Stakeholder Input

A twenty-five person "Implementation Team" comprised of County staff, the Chair of the Commission on Children and Families, nonprofit partners, and foster care alumni has been formed. Workgroups for topical areas will also be formed to explore redesign in greater detail. The Implementation Team will meet on a weekly basis for the next several months to meet existing MAPP goals for DCFS, and to plan and implement the goals outlined in the Board motion – specifically items one and two.

To date, multiple meetings have been held with CEO, DCFS, and stakeholders to discuss formation of the Implementation Team and immediate re-direction of funds. On March 15, 2010, the first of four stakeholder meetings took place and more than seventy-five people attended. Those attendees included County staff, nonprofit partners, DCFS contractors, community college staff, foster parents, foster care alumni and bench officers from Dependency Court. These stakeholder meetings will be utilized as an informant body that will also provide feedback on proposed actions. DCFS has scheduled additional stakeholder meetings in Service Planning Areas (SPAs) 1, 2, 6, and 7 (the first meeting was held in SPA 4).

Coordination with Other County Departments

As part of the Implementation Team, a County Department Workgroup will be formed specifically to address item number three of this motion. Involved departments will include DPSS, DMH, DCSS and the CDC. Members of this team may also participate in other work groups as their expertise may touch other relevant areas.

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Evaluation Mechanism

The workgroup and DCFS' Executive Team will continue to explore the feasibility of a department-wide mechanism for measuring improvement in the area of youth self-sufficiency.

It is the goal of the Implementation Team to ensure that the DCFS MAPP Goal to redesign the Youth Development Services section is poised to begin implementation by June 30, 2010. Further, the Implementation Team will simultaneously inform the recommendations and actions taken in establishing the fourth child welfare outcome goal of self-sufficiency.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know or your staff may contact Kathy House, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer at (213) 974-4530, or via e-mail at khhouse@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:KH:LB
JS:hn

c: County Counsel
Children and Family Services
Community Development Commission
Community and Senior Services
Mental Health
Probation
Public Social Services